



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 15, 2009

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

We write to express both our hopes and concerns related to current and upcoming Commission proceedings focused on the deployment and use of broadband networks.


We applaud the Commission's effort to gather information about broadband and its recognition of the significant progress achieved to date, progress that is a direct result of policies that have encouraged competition and private investment and relied on the exercise of regulatory restraint. A decade ago, broadband was a nascent service, and only one percent of U.S. households connected to the Internet through broadband lines; today by contrast, roughly two-thirds of Americans connect through high-speed connections that are available to ninety-five percent of households. While we have further to go as a nation in extending the benefits of broadband to all, it is our strong belief that continued progress in expanding the reach and capabilities of broadband networks will require the Commission to reiterate, and not repudiate, its historic commitment to competition, private investment and a restrained regulatory approach.

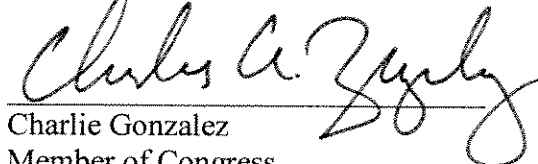
As the FCC embarks on its much anticipated rulemaking addressing the subject of "net neutrality," we therefore urge the Commission to carefully consider the full range of potential consequences that government action may have on network investment. We are confident that an objective review of the facts will reveal the critical role that competition and private investment have played -- and of necessity will continue to play -- in building robust broadband networks that are safe, secure and open. In light of the growth and innovation in new applications that the current regime has enabled, as compared to the limited evidence demonstrating any tangible harm, we would urge you to avoid tentative conclusions which favor government regulation.

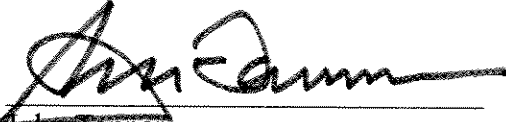
Like you, we believe in a transparent, data-driven process and stand ready to work with you on measures that will spur adoption and expand the use of broadband networks. But we remain suspicious of conclusions based on slogans rather than substance and of policies that restrict and inhibit the very innovation and growth that we all seek to achieve.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our views.

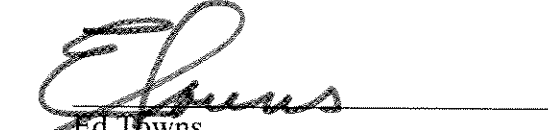
Sincerely,


Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

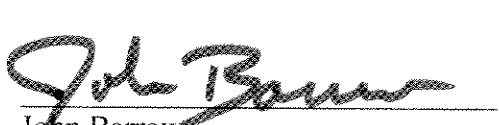

Charlie Gonzalez
Member of Congress



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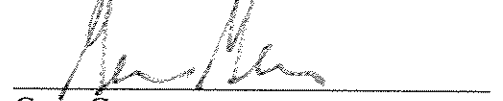

Ed Towns
Member of Congress

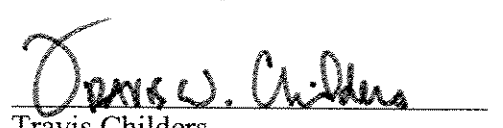

Eddie Bernice Johnson
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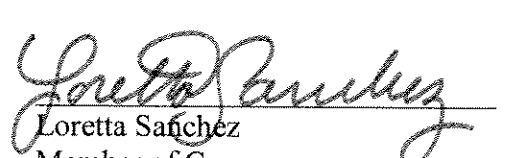

John Barrow
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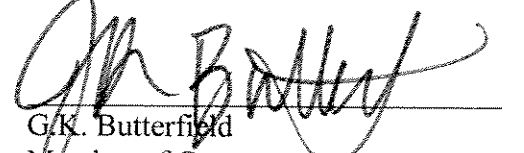

Joseph Crowley
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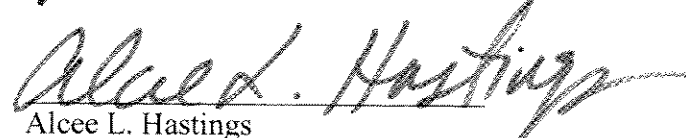

Gene Green
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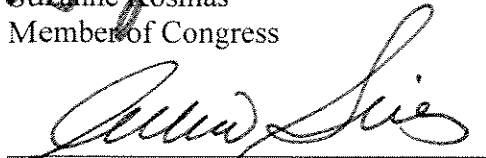

Chaka Fattah
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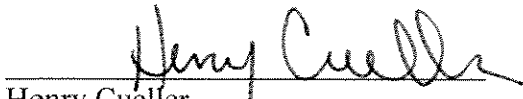

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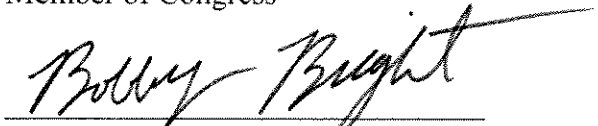

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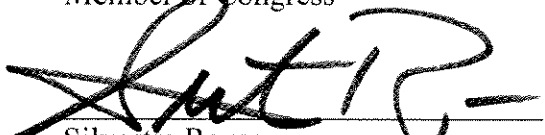

Suzanne Kosmas
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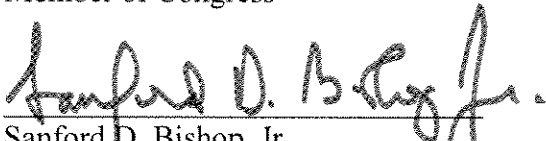

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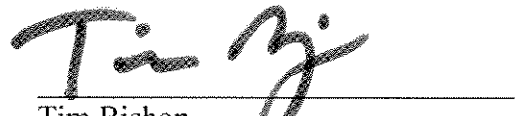

Lincoln Davis
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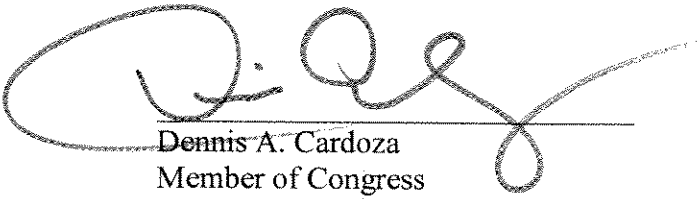

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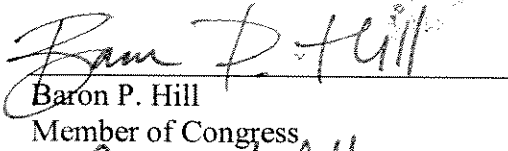
Dennis A. Cardoza
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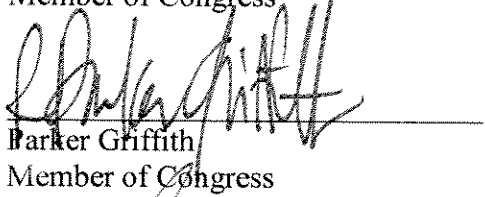
David Scott
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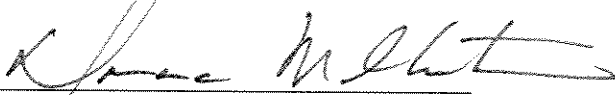
Bennie G. Thompson
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Baron P. Hill
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Parker Griffith
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Donna M. Christensen
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Bill Foster
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Daniel B. Maffei
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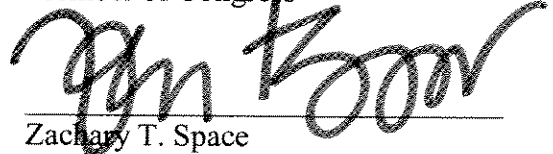
Elijah E. Cummings
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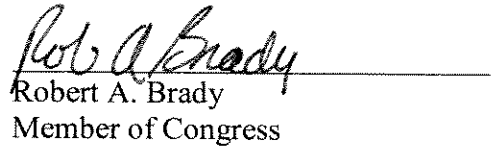
Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



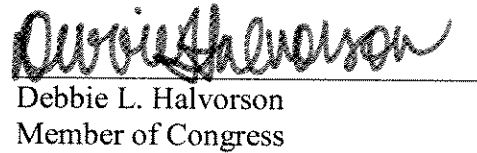
Ed Perlmutter
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Robert A. Brady
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Debbie L. Halvorson
Member of Congress



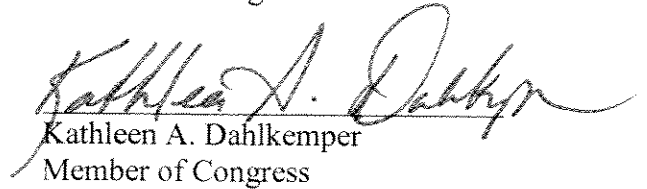
Charlie A. Wilson
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Jared Polis
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Steve Driehaus
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Kathleen A. Dahlkemper
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Peter Welch

Peter Welch
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Al Green

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Ed Pastor

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Member of Congress

Michael Arcuri

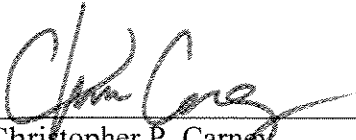
Michael Arcuri
Member of Congress

Heath Shuler

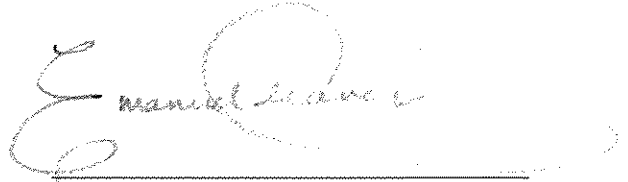
Heath Shuler
Member of Congress

Nick Rahall

Nick Rahall
Member of Congress



Christopher P. Carney
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress

CC: Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Meredith Attwell